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President Marcy named Arthur Vining Davis Aspen Fellow

Dominican University of California President Mary B. Marcy was selected as an Arthur Vining Davis Aspen Fellow for the 2015 Aspen Ideas Festival (AIF). The Fellows were selected from a competitive field of national nominees who are emerging leaders with diverse backgrounds.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information about the Fellows and the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations.

Since 2005, the Aspen Ideas Festival has been the nation's premier convening for leaders to engage in deep and inquisitive consideration of ideas and issues that shape our lives and challenge our times. President Marcy presented the work underway at Dominican to create a distinctive model of education that reinterprets the liberal arts, the sciences, and professional education for a new generation of students.

"I am tremendously honored to have this opportunity to engage in meaningful discussion with national and international leaders and to share Dominican's work creating an educational model that will be beneficial to all students," President Mary said. "This work comes at a time when we must respond to challenges of significant concern for higher education – in particular cost, access, and quality – while preparing our students for the demands of an evolving workplace."

The Festival, held June 25 through July 4 in Aspen, Colorado, is a week-long program of discussions, seminars, panels, and tutorials from journalists, designers, innovators, politicians, diplomats, presidents, judges, musicians, artists, and writers. This year's theme was Smart Solutions to the World's Toughest Challenges.

Other university leaders selected as 2015 Arthur Vining Davis Fellows included Rebecca Chopp, Chancellor, University of Denver; Serene Jones, President, Union Theological Seminary; and John Wilson, President, Morehouse College.

"The Aspen Ideas Festival is a gathering for thought leaders from around the globe to discuss solutions to the world's toughest problems, said Dominican University of California Trustee Douglas Carlston. "Attending the Festival as an Arthur Vining Davis Aspen Fellow is a tremendous opportunity for President Marcy to share her important work focused on creating a new educational model designed to prepare students to meet the needs of a rapidly changing, global society."

In 2013, Dominican initiated a campus planning process to create the Dominican Experience, an educational model designed to provide all students with an education that purposefully integrates high-impact practices (such as service-learning, internships, research, leadership development, global education), academic achievement, and support services.

The Dominican Experience will include a team-based integrative advising framework that supports students individually in connecting the pieces of their education and their career goals; a series of signature activities common to all students that develop and put into practice the core values underlying the curriculum; and focused opportunities for access to engaged learning practices.

While the Dominican Experience will impact all students, it will be particularly beneficial to Dominican's diverse student population. Almost one-third of Dominican's 1,600 undergraduates are the first in their family to attend college and more than half are students of color.

"As California's demographics shift – and as the nation's demographics follow – Dominican is positioning itself for a new era," President Marcy said. "Dominican is designing an education for the future and has a profound commitment to our diverse student body."

Recent national recognition for her work focused on creating a renewed vision of the liberal arts to educate the country's increasingly diverse student population has placed President Marcy at the forefront of the

national discussion on the future of higher education.

Earlier this year, President Marcy was selected by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) invited to join the Council's Project on the Future of Higher Education. The long-term goal is to help independent colleges revitalize their missions, refocus their long-term strategic plans, and consider new business models that retain the student-centered nature of these institutions.

In December, President Marcy participated in the White House College Opportunity Day of Action, where she announced plans to double the number of students who graduate with degrees in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields and triple the number of students who graduate with a STEM minor by 2020.

[CLICK HERE](#) hear President Marcy talk with San Francisco's KGO about Dominican's White House commitment.

President Marcy became Dominican University of California's ninth President on July 1, 2011. She serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Liberal Education, the Academic Advisory Council of the Panetta Institute, and the Higher Education Advisory Board of the National Council on Education and the Economy. She is a member of the Board of Governors of the Commonwealth Club of California and sits on the Board of Directors of the North Bay Leadership Council. For the past three consecutive years, she has been named one of the Bay Area's "Most Influential Women in Business" by the San Francisco Business Times in recognition of her exemplary leadership in higher education.

A political scientist, President Marcy earned her Doctorate of Philosophy and Master of Philosophy from the University of Oxford. Her research focuses on women in American politics, and she has published extensively on issues of diversity, leadership, and strategy in higher education. Born and raised in western Nebraska, President Marcy received her Bachelor of Arts with honors from the University of Nebraska.